## Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

Claims 28-37 (cancelled)

Claim 38 (previously presented): In a digital communication system, apparatus for receiving OFDM signals originating with disparate sources, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a series of time domain OFDM bursts originating with said disparate sources;

means for converting said series of time domain OFDM bursts to a series of frequency domain OFDM bursts; and

means for applying an error correction decoding process to each of said series of frequency domain bursts to ameliorate effects of transmission errors, wherein each of said frequency domain bursts is considered to have been encoded independently, and wherein decoding results for a selected one of said frequency domain bursts are independent of contents of other ones of said frequency domain bursts.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said error correction decoding process comprises a convolutional decoding process.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said means for applying said error correction decoding process for said selected one of said frequency domain bursts comprises:

means for feeding said selected one of said frequency domain bursts as input to said error correction decoding process; and

means for feeding a series of predetermined values as input to said error correction decoding process to reset an internal state of said error correction decoding process prior to input of a next one of said frequency domain bursts.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said means for applying an error correction decoding process for said selected one of said frequency domain bursts comprises:

means for feeding said selected one of said frequency domain bursts as input to said error correction decoding process; and

means for resetting an internal state of said error correction decoding process prior to input of a next one of said frequency domain bursts.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said series of OFDM time domain bursts are obtained from successive TDMA frames.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said series of OFDM time domain bursts are received via a plurality of carrier frequencies.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said means for applying comprises means for employing a depuncturing pattern that varies between ones of said frequency domain bursts to accommodate disparate code rates employed by said disparate sources when encoding said OFDM signals.

Claim 45 (previously presented): In a digital communication system, apparatus for transmitting an OFDM signal from a network node, said apparatus comprising:

means for collecting data bits to be transmitted;

means for feeding said data bits as input to an encoding process;

means for feeding flush bits as input to said encoding process, said flush bits having predetermined values to facilitate decoding;

means for developing a frequency domain burst incorporating output of said encoding process caused by input of said data bits input of said flush bits to said encoding process;

means for converting said frequency domain burst into a time domain burst; and

means for transmitting said time domain burst.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting within a TDMA frame reserved for transmission by said network node.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting via a carrier frequency reserved for said network node.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said encoding process comprises a convolutional encoding process.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said encoding process comprises a trellis encoding process.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 45 wherein said frequency domain burst further incorporates training symbols.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 45 wherein a number of said flush bits is one less than a constraint length of a convolutional encoder.

Claim 52 (previously presented): In a digital communication system, a method for operating a receiver to handle signal originating with disparate sources that have encoded said signals with varying amounts of redundancy, said method comprising:

receiving encoded data originating with said disparate sources;

decoding said encoded data serially by source; and

varying a degree of redundancy removed during said decoding depending on which source originated currently processed encoded data.